



Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook March 12 - 18, 2015

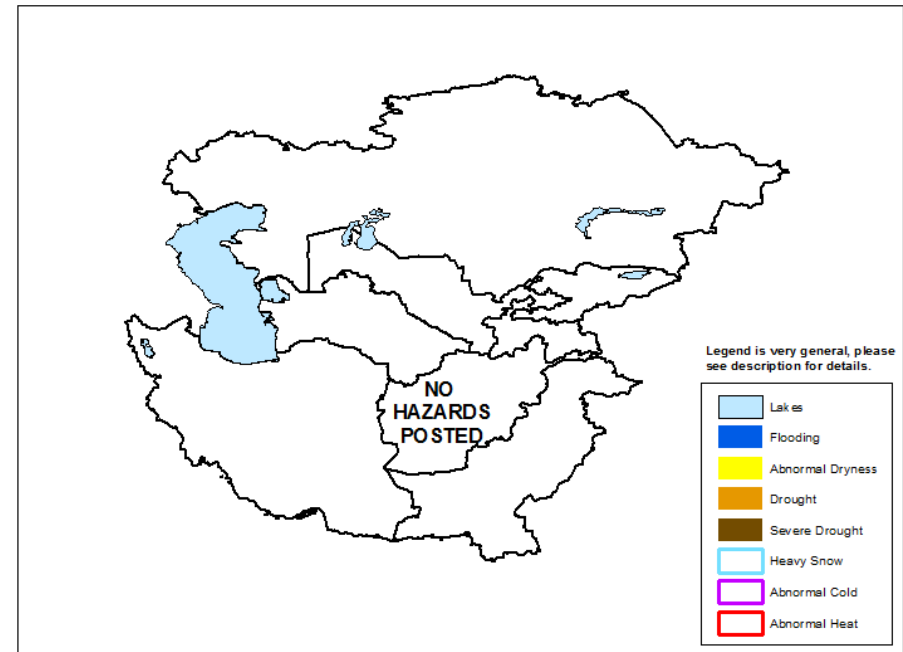
Temperatures:

Temperatures averaged at or above-normal the region during the first week of March, with the largest positive temperature anomalies (more than 7 degrees C) across southern Kazakhstan. Widespread freezing temperatures were likely observed across the lower elevations of Afghanistan for the second consecutive week. Maximum temperatures remained below freezing, typical for the beginning of March, across northern Kazakhstan, while maximum temperatures warmed into the near 20 degrees C across southern Turkmenistan. During the next week, the GFS model indicates that temperatures will average at or slightly below-normal.

Precipitation

The wet pattern persisted into the first week of March with widespread rain and high-elevation snow occurring across Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Precipitation amounts locally exceeded 25 mm, liquid equivalent. Snow-water content, according to the USGS, continues to increase with river basins across northern Afghanistan currently above-average.

During the next week, the GFS model generally indicates light to moderate precipitation amounts (2 – 20 mm, liquid equivalent) throughout most of the region. Although snow is likely across the higher elevations, heavy snow is not anticipated at this time. However, model guidance favors a renewed risk of heavy snow later in March.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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